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Argentina

Ambassador Resigns

The surprise resignation last week of Argentina's ambassador to the US, Arnaldo Musich, appears to have been due primarily to differences with Foreign Minister Admiral Guzzetti.

The US embassy in Argentina reports that Guzzetti has long been upset with Musich because the latter, having largely economic responsibilities, tended to be more responsive to Economy Minister Martinez de Hoz than to the foreign minister. Indeed, Martinez de Hoz suggested Musich for the post.

Guzzetti was said to be further incensed when Musich met in Washington with a US priest who had been detained by Argentine authorities as an alleged subversive and freed only after a vigorous US protest. Guzzetti reportedly threatened to resign if Musich were not removed.

Musich's decision to quit may also be due in part to the increasing burden of defending the regime against charges of human rights violations growing out of the antiterrorist campaign.

The departure of the able Musich, a businessman and economist who worked hard to secure financial assistance and sympathy for the new government, could result in a loss of prestige for President Videla, who pressed Musich's appointment despite some military objections. Musich had served in the administration of Arturo Frondizi, ousted by the military in 1962.

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